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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON



July 24, 1961

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, GMAIC

SUBJECT: "Nth" Country Working Group

The recent difficulties involved in turning out a GMAIC contribution to NIE 4-3-61 "Nuclear Weapons and Delivery Capabilities of 'Nth' Countries" points up once again the need for some sort of permanent body within the intelligence community to follow missile developments in "Nth" countries on a continuing basis.

Unfortunately the need to make intelligence judgments in this area will not recede in the future. In fact, problems in this regard are multiplying at an alarming rate already. These problems cut across the lines of responsibility of almost every agency represented on GMAIC. In addition, because certain services are in a favorable position to acquire information on particular countries through non-intelligence channels, it is important to have a mechanism for insuring that this information gets to all segments of the intelligence community.

To remedy our present shortcomings in regard to "Nth" country developments, I propose that GMAIC establish an "Nth" Country Working Group whose function would be to insure the proper exchange of information in its assigned area of responsibility and to prepare reports and estimates when required. In addition to keeping abreast of developments in the missile field, the group should be responsible for following significant space developments by the "Nth" countries or combinations thereof. Meetings need not be frequent but they should be held regularly to make certain that the group is prepared to respond to requests for intelligence analyses on short notice. In order to spread the work load, responsibility for following developments in particular countries, or for certain classes of missiles, could be assigned to individual agencies as the group sees fit.

It was the consensus of the members of the working group for NIE 4-3-61 that a permanent working group on the "Nth" country problem could perform a useful function.


C. C. Flowerree
State Department Member

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P. S. I note that little if any attention was paid to editing the final version of our contribution to NIE 4-3-61. In a very cursory inspection I found at least half a dozen errors including one omission. It is this sort of sloppiness that impels ONE to rework our NIE drafts.						
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